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True HISTORY

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Henrietta de Bellgrave,

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A woman born to great calamities, a distressed virgin, unhappy wife, and most afflicted mother; her intended voyage with her parents to the *East Indies*; her being taken by pirates, her mother's death on the seas; being shipwreck'd on the coast of *Bombay*, where her father and all the ships crew perished, save herself and two sailors, one of them attempted her ruin, the other striving to oppose him lost his life; her being rescued by eight *Indians*, where one of them tho' a pagan, fired with resentment, plunged his javelin through the villains heart, and carried her to their masters house, where she was used with great tenderness and afterwards married to the *Banyan*, who almost adored her, but not being able to bring her to his way of worship, and one day he caught her christening her daughter *Zoa*, for which he never forgave her, her unhappy life till her daughter was 13 years of age.

Printed and Sold at *Bailey's Printing Office*, in
Leadenhall Street.

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Distress'd *Virgin*, unhappy *Wife*,
and most afflicted *Mother*.

Wrote by herself for the Use of her Daughter.



L L that enables me to support a life, which, from my very infancy, has presented me with nothing but misfortunes, is the desire of seeing you arrive at an age capable of being more sensible of what you truly are: I cannot die, and leave you with no other knowledge of yourself, than that you are the daughter of an *Indian Banyan*, and a *Heathen*. O then, if it pleases heaven, that these papers fall into your hands, be careful of them. I conjure you by all that duty, that love, and that respect, which even the worship you are train'd up in enjoins from children to their parents, read them not lightly over, but examine every article, weigh every precept; engrave them in your mind, that, if by any accident you lose the original, your memo-

ry may supply you with a faithful copy.—I command you also, to keep whatever you find here an inviolable secret, unless providence, whose ways are all mysterious, should happily conduct you to some place, where it may be to your advantage to reveal it.

Know then, my dear *Zoa*, that, by my side, you are descended from two very antient and honourable families, in a kingdom famous over the whole world, not only for its extent, the pleasantness of its situation, and the magnificence of its buildings; but also, for the laws, customs, and manners of its inhabitants: I need not tell you it is *France* I mean, since you have often heard me say, the place I was born in is call'd so.

My Father was the eldest Son of the Count *de Bellgrave*: My Mother a Daughter of the Baron *de Soissons*. If you should ever happen to meet with any one from that country, you will hear such characters of the virtue and grandeur of your ancestors, as, tho' I would not wish should make you proud, ought nevertheless to inspire in you a just scorn of doing any thing unworthy of the race you sprung from.

It is the policy of people of condition, in my country, and in most parts of *Europe*, when they have more daughters than they can conveniently portion out, rather than consent to their marriage with an inferior rank, to shut one, or more of them, into certain houses call'd *Monasteries*, where they
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are secluded from the world for ever, and compell'd, often against their inclination, to devote themselves wholly to Heaven, and the duties of religion. The Baron, having a numerous offspring, intended to sacrifice my Mother in this manner to the grandeur of his family; but the passion my Father had for her prevented it: After having in vain implor'd the Count's consent they were privately married. The affair was kept a secret for some time, nor had been divulg'd so soon, had not the Baron's resolution, of thrusting my Mother in a Monastery, oblig'd them to confess it to them; and she, soon after, becoming pregnant, the honour of his family render'd it necessary the truth shou'd be made public. Nothing cou'd surpass the Count's indignation, when he was first made acquainted with it; he wou'd never after suffer my Father to come into his presence, nor allow any thing towards his support, or that of the wife he had made choice of; and, tho' a great number of the nobility interested themselves in this cause, and represented to him, that there was nothing in a daughter of the Baron *de Soissons*, except want of fortune, that could be look'd upon as unworthy a Son of the Count *de Bellgrave*; and that my Mother's virtue, beauty, and other qualifications, well atton'd for that deficiency. He continued as inexorable as ever; nor did my birth, for I was the first, and, indeed, the sole fruits of this unhappy marriage, in the least soften his obdurate heart, and
for

for thirteen years, neither my Father, Mother nor myself, had any other support, than what we receiv'd from the indulgence of the good Baron; which, giving a mortal uneasiness to his other children, render'd our lives very uncomfortable.

While we were in this melancholy situation, news arriv'd of the death of the Governor of *Iran-dad*, a settlement the *French* have in the *East-Indies*; The Prince of *Conde* requested the King, that my Father might succeed him. It was a post, indeed, far beneath the heir of *Bellgrave* to accept of; but it was a noble provision for a son in disgrace with his Father, and who had no subsistence, but from the Father of his Wife. As such my Father received the grant of it, and kiss'd his Majesty's hand; with the sincerest gratitude, as well as testify'd his acknowledgments to the Prince, by whose intercession it had been conferr'd upon him.

It was the opinion of every body, that this news wou'd bring the Count *de Bellgrave* to reason, and that he would rather forgive, and make a handsome settlement on his Son, than suffer him to go to a place, whence he could not expect he would ever return, during his life; but he was deaf to all the calls of nature, and paternal affection, nor would even permit my Father to take leave of him before his departure.

The Baron wou'd fain have perswaded my Father and Mother to have left me with him, but a fatal fondness, to which I owe all my miseries, would
suffer

suffer neither of them to be prevail'd upon.—Yet, ought I not to condemn it; they knew the jealousy my Uncles and Aunts had of me, and fear'd the effect of it, if I were left defenceless, and exposed to their malice, which they doubted not, but would encrease, in proportion to the Baron's affection towards me. Nothing, however, could have equall'd, or even come within comparifon, of the mischiefs entail'd upon me by this *Indian* voyage: Mischiefs so numerous, and of that dreadful kind, that, if related by any other than a Mother, you would scarce believe could happen to one woman.

Every thing being prepar'd for our departure, for the magnificence of which all the kindred of both sides, except the cruel Count, contributed, we embark'd on board a large and well stor'd vessel—Favourable winds, and smooth seas, gave us the prospect of a happy voyage; and never was a greater alteration than what I perceived in the faces of my dear parents: The pleasure of seeing themselves independant, tho' in a rank inferior to the dignity of their birth, diffus'd such an air of gaiety thro' all their features, as was astonishing to me, being too young to penetrate into the cause, and made me discover charms in them, I had never seen before.—My Mother, 'tis certain, was extremely lovely, and my Father wanted none of those manly graces which command respect. I was thought to partake of what was most agreeable to both; but, alas! few traces of what they were now remain

remain in me!—Wasted with continual pinings in youth, I suffer all the decays that age cou'd have produc'd; nor have you ever seen in me any thing of that beauty, which seem'd as if just bestow'd upon me only for my ruin, and, when that was compleated, was snatch'd away, no more, than my peace of mind, to be recover'd, leaving me nothing but the sad remembrance of ideas, it was my cruel fortune never to enjoy the reality of.

If ever I knew true satisfaction, it was on board; while at the Baron's, the melancholy, in which I saw those dear persons plung'd, who gave me being, the distant looks of some of my realtions, and the reflections, sometimes thrown on me by others, the fear I was in of incurring their displeasure, and rendering them yet more harsh, gave me as much disquiet, as it was possible for one of my age to feel; but now, to find a great number of servants ready to obey my call, to see the obsequious behaviour of the whole ship's crew, and even of the Officers themselves, towards my Father and Mother, was such a pleasing alteration in our fortunes, as quite elated my young heart, and I became in a manner transported with it.—Contentment too short, alas! too transient, for so many years of racking woe!—While we thought our malevolent stars had left off persecuting us, they were collecting all their venom, to pour it down at once with greater force upon us.

One morning, as I lay in my cabin, within that of their excellencies, for by that title they now call'd my Father and Mother, I was wak'd with an unusual noise, and presently heard the firing of guns; I was starting up, in order to enquire into the meaning of this alarm, when a maid, that waited on me, came in and told me, a Pirate had attack'd us, and that it was proper I should rise, in case of accidents. The terror that appear'd in her countenance, and her trembling as she spoke, convinc'd me, that we were in great danger. With her assistance I soon got on my cloaths, and ran to my Mother, whom I found earnest at her devotions by her bed-side.—Some others coming into the cabin, at the same time I did, interrupted them, and she cried out, where,—Oh! where is the Governor? Safe, Madam, as yet, answer'd one of them, but we cannot prevail on him to come down, and the Balls fly thick as hail about the deck. She was then running up, to endeavour to persuade him to a greater regard for his life, but was stopt by a sudden, loud, and confus'd noise, which to us sounded as if the top of the ship, with all the masts, wear breaking down.—They have boarded us!—They have boarded us! cry'd one of the sailors, with a great oath; Death, or slavery:—We have no time to lose. With this the uproar over our heads grew more violent, and in an instant the cabin was clear'd of all but my Mother, myself, and two or three women servants: But with what

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words

words can I express the consternation, the horror this poor Lady was in! She wept, she cry'd to heaven for relief — One moment she press'd me in her arms, and cry'd, my dear *Henrietta*, what will become of thee? — She next shriek'd out, *Bellgrave!* where is my *Bellgrave!* Oh! why does his courage transport him to forget he has a Wife and a Daughter, and thus madly hazard a life on which alone ours depends? — A thousand times did she run to the cabin door, thinking to reach him with her voice. — Then as precipitately started back, frighten'd at some fresh alarm; but the last and most dreadful one, was the sight of my dear Father, cover'd with blood, and supported between two men. As soon as they had lain him on the bed my dear, said he, to my Mother, it was not in human valour to preserve our liberty; — heaven has refus'd its assistance; — the ship is taken, and we all are slaves; — the ill is past redemption; — do not, by your tumultuous grief, provoke our conquerors to use us worse. — The agony he saw her in occasion'd him to speak these words, which she had no time to reply to. The cabin was in a moment full of Men who seem'd to be a mingled rabble of all nations, but all-equally fierce and terrible in their aspect. — The Captain, who, I perceiv'd afterwards was among them, gave some orders in a language which I did not understand, but the effect declar'd in our favour, for the greatest part of those wretches, whose countenances added to the horror of our fate,

fate, withdrew, and left only himself and three or four more with us, one of whom happen'd to be a *Frenchman*, and afterwards serv'd as an interpreter between his Officer and my Father. On being inform'd who we were, he had the humanity to command my Father's wounds to be taken care of, and to permit us to remain in the cabin; but all the rest, except two women servants belonging to us, were confin'd under hatches. Having remov'd all that was most valuable out of our ship into his own, he return'd into it, and left a mate and some few sailors to make the best way they could with us to *Madagascar*, a large Island, which has long been the receptracle and azilum for these Sea-robbers.

What a sad reverse was now in our condition! Instead of being adorn'd as usual, and attended with all the pomp of Majesty, and going to receive the homage of a whole province, we were stript of every thing the bounty of our friends had bestow'd on us, and about to be conducted into a wretched slavery, in which there was little prospect, but to linger out our whole lives. My Father bore it with a manly fortitude, but my Mother was inconsolable: The tenderness and generosity of her nature wou'd not suffer her to reflect on the misfortunes of a Husband, brought on him merely by his affection for her, with any tolerable degree of patience, and, casting up the long account of sorrows their marriage had occasion'd

him, found the sum too large for all the merits she cou'd find in herself to atone for. This threw her into a deep melancholy, and a languishment more dangerous than all my Father's wounds, which shews, that distempers of the mind are with much less difficulty reliev'd, than any thing which can affect the body.

She often express'd her sentiments to him, on this head, in the most affecting terms; but tho' he made use of all the soft persuasions, the most perfect passion cou'd inspire, to convince her, that he was so far from repenting what he had done, that were he still to chuse, he wou'd embrace a life of poverty with her, rather than the most envy'd grandeur, depriv'd of her society; yet cou'd he not alleviate these gloomy thoughts, and she would sigh, and say, the more she found him worthy, the more she had reason to regret being the instrument of his unhappiness.

As I was always near them, and could not avoid hearing these melancholly entertainments, my heart was so much touch'd with them, that I had not the power to restrain myself from uttering something, that look'd like a repining at providence, for the little care it seem'd to take of innocence and virtue; but, whenever any thing of this nature fell from me, I was immediately check'd for it, and such lessons of patience, and resignation to the Divine Will, taught me, as have been of
great

great service to me in those dreadful accidents which have since befallen me.

We had not been above eight days prisoners to the Pirates, before Heaven, indeed, sent us a deliverance, which once more flatter'd us with hopes of happiness. The ship that took us, and which still kept company with us, it seems, had descry'd an *English* vessel, which, supposing it to be richly laden, the Captain of the Pirates resolved to attack, but, their powder and shot being very much wasted in the fight with us, they sent the long-boat for a supply, This occasion'd our lying by, while the two ships were engag'd. The *English* made a brave defence, but must have been taken at last, if, by an unexpected accident, it had not been reliev'd. Some of our Men, in the confusion those were in, whom the Pirates had left on board us, found means to get their liberty, and soon gave it to their fellows, kill'd and threw over-board all that offered to make any resistance, and our Captain came to us with the joyful news, that he was once more commander of his own Ship. We then crouded all the sails, thinking to escape, while the Pirate was engag'd with the *English*, but unhappily the vessel had sprung so great a leak, that those at the pump cryed out, It was impossible it should endure two hours sail, on which my Father, the Captain, and whole crew were of opinion, the best expedient we had was to join the *English* vessel, and assist her with what ammunition

was

was left, which indeed was but a small quantity, the greatest part, as I said before, having been sent for by the Pirate. We had, however a great number of hands, and the *English*, encouraged by so unhop'd for a relief, fell briskly on. Our Men, who knew they must either conquer, or die, in the midst of a thousand shot, got up to, and boarded the Pirate Sword in hand, where, though many fell, the rest did great execution: The *English* then ceasing to fire, because their friends must have suffer'd by it, equally with their foes, veer'd about, and boarded the Pirate on the other side; in fine, never was a more obstinate fight, but, in the end, Heaven gave the victory to the justest side, tho' not without a vast effusion of blood. The Pirates were almost all kill'd or wounded, and their ship so shatter'd, that the *English*, having remov'd all the effects into their own vessel, left it, with the few that yet remain'd alive, to the mercy of the seas. Our's was also by this time so full of water, that we were oblig'd to quit it, with the utmost precipitation, and get on board the *English*.

The Captain spoke *French* perfectly well, was a Man of as much politeness as bravery, and no sooner heard, from my Father, who we were, and the accidents that had happen'd, since our leaving *France*, than he treated us with all the marks of respect imaginable, return'd to us all that had been taken from us by the Pirate, and which we had now retaken, and would have oblig'd my Father, and
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the Captain, to have shar'd with him in the other prizes found on board, in consideration of the seasonable assistance he had received from us; but they would accept of nothing, but what had been their own before, and only desired that they would put in at *Iranadad*, and permit us to land. The Captain seem'd extremely troubled at this request, and told my Father, he was sorry he had asked the only thing out of his power to grant, the ship not being his own, but belonging to a company of Merchants, to whom he was, in effect, no more than a servant -- That the effects he had on board were of a very great value, and that he could not answer the putting in at any place to which he had not a commission, much less one appertaining to a Prince with whom his nation was, at that time, at war. But, added he, when we arrive at *Bombay*, where I am bound, I will take care to represent the service I have receiv'd from you in such a manner to the Governor and Factory, that I dare give your Excellency the assurance of a Ship to carry you, and all belonging to you, to your desired Port.

My Father was sensible the reasons he gave were just, and we were oblig'd to content ourselves with the prospect we had, that, after this long voyage, we should at last arrive where we intended.

We should indeed have pass'd our time pleasantly enough on board this vessel, had it not been for my Mother's indisposition, which every day increased so, that her life was despair'd of. My Father

ther now perfectly recover'd of his wounds, stirr'd not a moment from her bedside, nor would either my duty or affection permit me to quit her. She linger'd in this melancholy decline, for about five weeks, and, when she found the hour of her dissolution was approaching, took a farewell of my Father with more resolution than could have been expected from her: so great was her tenderness and regard for him, that it even surmounted all those terrors, which generally attend the separation of the soul from the body. She doubted not but, when she was no more, he would be easily reconcil'd to the Count, and return to all those honours and pleasures of life, which his love for her had given so long an interruption to, and this idea made her quit the world with rather a shew of satisfaction, than the contrary.—She embraced and gave me her blessing with the same serenity; then turning again to my Father, conjur'd him to let no accidents or future events make him forgetful of me. These were the last words she spoke.—That instant her pure and spotless soul flew to receive its reward, for the virtues it had practis'd here, and left us to lament, with unavailing tears, so great a loss.

Tho' it is certain, never man loved with a more constant and ardent passion, than my Father, yet he had that fortitude peculiar to great minds, not to bewail misfortunes which were irrecoverable; a decent sorrow sat on his brow, and hung heavy on his heart, but his tears were few, and
soon

soon dried up, nor did he refuse the consolations given him by the *English*, as well as by those of his own people: He would not consent that my Mother should be buried in the sea, but ordered her to be embalmed by the surgeon of the ship, and had her laid in a chest, resolving, tho' dead, she should be the companion of his voyage to *Bombay*, and afterwards, to his government, where he intended to inter her, in a manner suitable to her birth, her virtue, and the affection he always borne her living.

But alas! how vain are the designs of man, when all disposing heaven refuses its assent! Not only his dear Wife, but himself also was destined to a watry grave. We were so near *Bombay* as to be able to discern land, when, about the close of day, a storm arose more violent, as the mariners told us, than had ever been known in these seas. The ship was extremely large, and of great burthen, yet did the strength and fury of the waves toss it to a stupendous height, then plunge it down again, as from a precipice. One moment the gathered surges lifted us up as on a pinnacle; the next parted and seemed to swallow us in the dreadful gap.—Darkness came on, our dangers and our fears redoubled: — The hurricane grew more outrageous: — The masts, the rudder, were all torn away, the waters came pouring in, and one and all cry'd out, we are lost! No hope but in the long boat, which being immediately thrown out, my Father, myself, and

as many of the sailors as could get in, took to it:—Too many indeed, for it immediately sunk, and all perished that were in it, except three persons, one of whom was my unhappy self; and the others were one of the mates belonging to the *Engliſh*, and a *Cock* we brought with us from *France*. Being extremely dextrous in swimming, they not only ſaved themſelves, but me.—They ſaw me floating as they afterwards told me, and caught hold of my garments each with one hand, and with the other combated the waves.—Wonderful indeed was my preſervation! and ſome time after, when I reflected on the care that providence then took of me, I flattered myſelf, I was deſtin'd to ſee days as happy as in reality they proved miſerable.

I was quite ſenceleſe when we reached the coaſt, but my two deliverers having taken proper methods to make me diſcharge the water I had ſwallowed, I ſoon came to myſelf; but judge, my dear *Zoa*, judge of the horribleneſs of my ſituation: In the firſt emotions of grief and deſpair, I neither thank'd heaven, nor thoſe who, at the hazard of their own lives, had preſerved mine, but cry'd out for my Father, and, not doubting but not only he and all we had in the world was loſt, uttered ſuch exclamations, as I fear offended heaven, and perhaps drew on all my future woes.

Theſe two men, for the mate ſpoke *French* well enough to be underſtood, ſaid every thing they could to comfort me; It was not impoſſible, they told

told me, for the Governor to be safe as well as we were; and, as to our effects, the ship might probably bulge against a rock, or be driven on the coast, and, if so, when once the storm was over, and the waters sunk to their usual bounds, great part of what was in her might be recovered by boats, which the factory would send out for that purpose,

This last I knew not but might be feasible enough, but as I knew my Father had not the least skill in swimming, I could entertain no shadow of a hope of ever seeing him more. So great a loss as such a parent, might well have rendered me inconsolable, had I been in my own country, amidst my friends, and mistress of an ample fortune; what must it now be to me, when left a wretched orphan, in a country in which I was absolutely a stranger, even as to language and customs, no means of supporting a miserable life, without a friend to advise, or money to relieve me! — I laid myself down on the earth, where I had been sitting since my recovery, and wept bitterly: The darkness of the night and the hollow whistling of the winds, which still continued very high, tho' somewhat abated of their late fury, added to the horror of my ideas, and I wished for nothing more than to expire that instant.

At length the day appeared, and never had a more beautiful prospect struck my eyes: The elements were grown as calm as a few hours before

they had been disturbed, the sea rolled smooth, the land looked gay and pleasant; a wood behind us, whose trees were of an uncommon height, and loaded with fruit of various kinds, invited us to taste; others charmed the smell with their fragrancy, a thousand birds of different sorts, and such as I had never seen before, were hopping from bough to bough, and chanting out their thanks to bounteous nature. I will own to you, that for some moments the novelty of every thing that met my sight allayed some part of my just sorrows; but when I turned towards the sea, that cruel sepulchre of my dear Father, my tears again began to flow. My companions had both of them glasses in their pockets; but, though by their help they could see a prodigious distance, they could discern nothing of the ship, nor any tokens of a wreck. We walked a considerable way on the sands by the sea-side, in order to discover, if it were lodged in any creek among the rocks, but could not perceive any thing of what we sought.

The *English* mate, who had been three times in *India* before, and was well acquainted with the nature of the winds and seas in those parts, told us, he imagined the vessel might be driven by the current down towards the neck of the harbour; and I might then depend a great deal of her cargo would be preserved. This was some little alleviation of my despair; for I began already to find the want of the necessities of nature in my faintness, having
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not eat for near 24 hours. The men also seemed as unable to withstand the calls of hunger as myself; and we agreed to go into the wood and gather fruit, in order to sustain ourselves, till we should arrive at some town.

The Mate drew his sword, and made the Cook do so too, in order, as he told me, to cut down the boughs, but in reality, that they might defend themselves and me from the wild beasts; but, as neither the Cook nor myself knew any thing of this danger, we went fearless on: Nor indeed met with any thing but squirrels, monkeys, and some other little harmless animals sporting up and down, and which fled at our reproach. We all set down and eat heartily of the fruit, which was no less delicious to the taste than pleasant to the eye, While we were taking this refreshment, the Mate expressed some trouble, that he knew not what part of the country we were in, or which way led to any town. He was not even positive that we were in *Bombay*, the darkness of the night and violence of the storm not permitting him to have any direction when we made to shore.

We were however obliged to submit to our fate, and had no other remedy but to travel on 'till we could happily meet some person that might give us information, which we did for many a weary mile, without being able to discover the least trace of any human step. The men supported this fatigue well enough, but I was frequently ready to fall
down

down through faintness; and they were obliged to carry me by turns in their arms, or I could never have been able to have gone through this painful journey.

Night again came on, and we seemed as far as ever from our hope, and the Mate then informed us of the danger we were in from wild beasts, which, he said, it was very likely might haunt those unfrequented places, especially by night. Both of them began to work at cutting down those boughs that seemed most withered, and made a pile of them: The Cook had a flint and steel in his pocket, and between them, though with an infinite deal of labour, they set the wood on fire; the light of which it seems, keeps those creatures at a distance. For my part, I was too faint and weary to give them any assistance, and lay down. While they were thus employed for our common safety, it was afterwards agreed, that I should endeavour to take what repose I could that night, in order to enable me for the next day's travel; and that each of them should watch alternately, to take care the fire did not go out, and to rouse the other, in case of any accident.

The place I had made choice of for my bed was at the root of a tree, whose vast trunk and low hung boughs at once defended me from the heat of the fire, and from the dews, which are apt to fall very thick in the night, and, being thus laid as commodiously as the place we were now in would admit of,

of, not all the disturbance of my mind kept me from falling into a profound sleep, in which I continued 'till towards morning, and had doubtless done so much longer, but for a sudden and most shocking interruption. I thought I was in the arms of a man, who, while he held me in a strenuous embrace, seemed to devour my lips with eager kisses.—Frighted I awoke; and what, if I had been alone, would have pass'd as a dream, I now found was a real fact—I shriek'd as loud as the surprize I was in would give me leave, but the villain stopp'd my mouth with his hand, and, thinking to impose upon my youth and innocence.—Do not be alarmed, my dear *Henrietta*, said he, I will do you no injury by heaven.—I have lov'd you, and ador'd you from the first minute I beheld you!—Permit me but an innocent embrace.—I ask no more.—The sound of his voice now made me know it was *Reyneer*, for so our Cook was called, and at the same time the indecencies he proceeded to, convinced me of the falshoods of his professions.—I struggled, I buffeted the wretch; but what could my weak resistance have availed, had not his hand by some accident slipped from my mouth, and gave me an opportunity to send forth a second shriek, so vehement, that it seemed to rend the very air, and after that another, before he could be quick enough to prevent me.

The Mate, awaking with my cries, started up amazed, and, running to the place where I was,
needed

needed no more to inform him of the cause!—Monster! said he, when dangers of every kind encompass us, and that we live a moment is owing to the mercy of heaven, is it a time for lust? *Reyneer*, enraged at the disappointment, and not in the least ashamed, of the base attempt, told him, he had no right to countermand his actions; and added some foul name, testifying his contempt of him, which the other not being of a temper to endure tamely, they fought.

I was so terrify'd and confused at the affront I had received, and the thoughts of what I might receive, if the Cook should get the better, that I staid not to see the issue of the combat, but ran as fast as my feet would carry me, 'till I came into a Forest; where breathless, and tired almost to death, I sat down beneath the cover of some trees that grew pretty thick.—It was now but a kind of twilight; and I flattered myself that I might be hid there, if even chance should direct my intended ravisher that way. 'Till I thought myself secure from him, my mind was too much engross'd to think of any other danger, any other misfortune; but now a thousand terrors assailed my poor throbbing heart.—Those beasts of prey, the honest *Englishman* had spoke of made me imagine, that every little rustling the wind made among the leaves, was some voracious animal coming to devour me.—Indeed, the most sanguine expectation could not have flattered itself with any hope, in the situation I then was.—

I had

I had been, indeed, preserved by a miracle, but could not look for a succession of such wonders in my favour, and nothing less I thought could afford me either shelter, Food, or raiment. Restless I quitted my seat, I wandered a little farther, I cast my eyes every way, but could discern no hut, no cottage, no kind of smoak from any distant chimney, that might direct my weary feet where I might beg a hospitable protection.—Full of despairing thoughts, the impossibility there seemed for me to prolong my life, made me at length less fearful of death; and I sat down again, resolving in that posture to wait my fate, in whatever shape heaven should think fit to order it.

The various miseries, the toils, the dangers I had undergone, in a short space of time, crowded at once into my mind, and my brain too weak to bear the wild ideas, which presented themselves to me, even the power of reflection was taken from me, and I sunk as it were into a lethargy of grief. How long my faculties remained in this inactivity I know not; but I was roused from it by a new terror, which was perhaps the only thing would have had the power to do it.—It was the voice of the detestable *Reyneer*, who, in the deep revery I had been in, I neither heard, nor saw approach: You are found again, my lovely fugative, said he, you might have fled from your deliverer; but from your lover nothing should have concealed you—I would

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have pursued you to the utmost corner of the world, and torn you even from your dead Father's arms; so violent is my passion, that to gratify it I would suffer not only all that man, but Heaven could inflict.

The remembrance how he had used me reviving at his sight, and the apprehensions these words justly gave me, filled me with such a mixture of shame, indignation and terror, that had I not been preserved for lasting anguish, sure I had died that instant.—I would have spoke, and was endeavouring to bring forth some words, that might have checked his audacity, but the extreme violence of the different emotions I then felt, stopped the passage of my words, and it was only by my eyes I could express my meaning; I believe they were intelligible enough, however, and made him see, that if I were to be gained it must be by softer and more humble methods, than those he had put in practice.—Hate me not for my excess of love, resumed he, in a more respectful tone than that in which he had at first accosted me; if it be a fault, or may have hurried me to actions displeasing to you, blame your own charms, which, as they are transcendant, must have transcendant effects —If you ask, why I am so bold? I may retort the question, and ask, why you are so beautiful? Believe, O most adorable *Henrietta*, that whatever my passion enforces me to commit, you, who inspire that passion, are the cause; with these words he caught hold of
both

both my hands, and pulled me towards him. — Rage at this action now getting the better of those other agitations, which had deprived me of utterance; — Villain! cry'd I, audacious slave, how dar'st thou even think of me in this manner? much less to touch me, and insult me with such odious declarations.

I went on reproaching him in this manner, with all the violence I could find words to express, but could perceive it had little effect on him; and when he found I had raved and struggled myself quite out of breath, — come, come, my charming *Henrietta*, said he, forcing me to sit down by him, consult your reason, that will tell you, you are wholly in my power; that this moment I could satiate my utmost wishes, in the possession of your charms, in spite of all your coyness; but my love for you is no less tender than it is violent. I would enjoy your heart, would engage you to a willing return of the affection I have for you. — I am not insensible of the disparity of our birth; but fortune has now reduced you to an equality with me: — are we not both in a condition, such as would make us rejoice to earn a piece of bread by begging? — Why then this pride, this unseasonable haughtiness? Let us rather endeavour to alleviate the misery of our present circumstances, by partakeing of those pleasures nature denies not to the meanest. We may, if you consent, baffle the malice of our ill stars, and be as happy as the first created pair in paradise. — See

said he, I have found two arrows, I have pack-thread about me, and this Forest will easily Furnish me with materials to make a bow. I will shoot birds, to supply my lovely *Henrietta's* hunger, will hew out a can with my knife, and fetch her water from the brook; will gather her the choicest Fruits, watch by her while she sleeps, and be her guardian angel.—Moved by our love and sufferings, Heaven may at last direct us to some place, where we may find some of our own species, and there I will work for her support.—O then continued he, despise me not, but let those lovely eyes look with compassion on me, take me to your bosom, and try the joys of love; joys, which even in this most dreadful wild desert, may make us more compleatly blessed and happy than monarchs on their thrones.

All the time he was speaking, tho' he had still hold of both my hands, which I in vain endeavoured to get loose, my Face was turned from him, so that he saw not the tears that fell from my eyes, while internally I invoked heaven to send me some relief; but, having ended what he had to say at that time, he threw his head upon my breast, and conjured me to make him some reply.—What can I say, cry'd I as fiercely as I could, but what thou knowest already, that I look on thee as a wretch unworthy of life; and that I almost loath myself, for being loved by so contemptible and so impious a villain?

Then

Then you resolve I shall have recourse to Force, said he:—Not Force nor Fraud shall give thee any advantage over me, answered I; a just consciousness of what we both are leaves me in no danger of the one, and in order to prevent the other I can die.

You but deceive yourself, cry'd the wretch, with a malicious grin, I will enjoy you first, and leave you afterwards to chuse what death your Foolish pride likes best. O Heaven have pity on me! I shrink'd out, ready to burst with inward rage and horror.—You waste your breath in vain, said he, whose now is none to interrupt my pleasures.—He that attempted it I have sent to another world, to boast how great a champion he has been of virtue here.—Murderous villain, cry'd I, which was all he gave me leave to speak: He that moment aimed to perpetrate his base intent, and sure Heaven in this dreadful juncture gave me a double portion of strength.—I tore, I scratched the abandon'd monster; I sprung from his grasp and fled.—He pursued and overtook me:—Again I was in his power.—I made the Forest echo with my cries.—A Lyon or a Tyger to devour him, or me, or both of us, would now have been a welcome fight; for I, alas! in spite of all the efforts I made, was near being overcome, near being made the prey of a worse monster, *Lust*; when all at once seven or eight men came rushing through the thicket where we were, and, seeing the violence I was like to suffer,

suffer, preserved my honour, and struck the invader of it dead at my Feet, with a kind of javelin, one of them had in his hand.

I must now inform you from whom, and by what chance I received this unexpected deliverance.— You know, my dear *Zoa*, your Father has a fine country-house, about three leagues from the vast Forest of *Chiama*; it was in that Forest I had sustain'd the hardships I have related, and these were men belonging to the *Banyan*, who happened to come there, in order to hunt the wild boar. As on those occasions they always go armed with javelins and arrows, I suppose it might be some of their arrows, which had missed their mark; that the wicked *Reyneer* found and mentioned to me. I cannot express to you the surprize, with which these *Indians* stared upon me: Indeed the figure I made might naturally occasion them to do so; my garments, tho' rich, drenched in the sea water, and dried in the sun and wind, were of a thousand disagreeable colours, torn with the bryars thro' which I had passed, as was also my flesh in many places. My hair unfileted, and hanging in wild disorder over my shoulders, my looks were doubtless, no less confused.—All this, joined to the place and manner in which they found me, must make them conclude some extraordinary adventure had befallen me: They came round me, they surveyed me from head to Foot, and talked very fast to one another; but though I had not the least understanding in
their

their language, nor had ever heard it before, I could perceive by their gestures, what they said was not in my disfavour. After having had their fill of gazing on me, two of them took me by each hand, and led me between them thro' the Forest, helping me, whenever we came to any rough way, with tenderness enough.

At length we reached where I beheld, what a very little time before I had despaired of ever seeing, a house; and though I knew not what treatment I might find there, or how I was to be disposed of, yet I could not help rejoicing to find myself out of that desolate wild, and once more among human kind. In this fashion they conducted me into your Father's villa, and the first room they happened to bring me to, was that which I have since converted into a bed-chamber, and where I write these memoirs.

Having made me sit down, they gave me water and a clean towel, which I was very glad to accept of; and as soon as I had done washing, set a plate of rice, and some boil'd Fowl before me, with a silver mug full of water, and a little arrack mingled in it. This refreshed me, and I blessed heaven for the happy change in my condition; but was extremely troubled, that I could neither understand my benefactors, nor inform them any thing of myself, which might influence a continuance of their bounty. I easily perceived they were *Indians* but could not be certain they were of *Bombay*; because

cause I remembered the *English* Mate had seemed doubtful, whether it was on that country we were cast, or some other. I earnestly wished it might be so, that I might apply to the Factory, judging, by the virtue and goodness of that man, that the *English* would commiserate my misfortunes, and do me justice, in case any thing belonging to my Father should have been found among the wreck: But, though I saw a great number of people passing in and out of the house, there were none among them that had the appearance of an *European*.—I was left alone some hours, after they had taken away the remains of what they brought for my refreshment; but at last I saw a very graceful *Indian* enter, attended by three or four of those who had found me in the Forest, and some others: He looked upon me with the same wonder they had done, but was not so lost in it, as not to accost me with a great deal of civility. As I knew by the respect paid him, and the distance with which all the rest behaved, that he was the master of them, and of the dwelling, I returned him thanks in *French*, for the Favours I had received, but had the mortification to find he understood not one word of what I said, any more than the others had done. The motions I made, however, made him guess at my meaning; and being instantly possessed with sentiments for me, which at that time I little apprehended, and was as little desirous of inspiring, he made a sign to all present to quit the room, and, seating

feating himself near me, began to kiss my hands with an extremity of ardour: This action so frightened me, that, thinking I was fallen in the power of a second *Reyneer*, I cry'd out, O God what will become of me! and at the same time burst into a flood of tears: Tho' he knew not the words I spoke, yet the agony that appeared in my Face, while uttering them, rendered their meaning, as he has since told me, perfectly intelligible; and willing to put an end to my apprehensions, he let go my hands, made a low bow, in token of entreating pardon for what he had done, and soon after went out of the room.

This behaviour made me see he was master of a great deal of politeness, and all those arts so engaging to our sex, but it did not dissipate my fears: The danger I had lately escaped gave me a sad experience, that lust, when it becomes violent, is not to be restrained by any considerations, either of honour, pity, or respect, and this reflection so alarmed me, that I almost wished myself again in the wilderness.

I was not long suffered to indulge these melancholy thoughts, two *Indian* women came in, and, making a sign to follow them, conducted me to a very handsome chamber, Furnished much in the same manner I had been accustomed to in *France*: The bed was composed of mattresses laid one upon another; the curtains about it were of the finest *Chints*, as were also the hangings of the room.—

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There were tables, chairs, glasses, and in fine every thing perfectly commodious; but what pleased me most, was a great iron bar on the inside of the door, which as soon as they had left me I did not fail to make fast.

Notwithstanding the vast fatigues I had endured, the anxiety of my mind would not suffer me to fall into a slumber till towards morning; but when I did, it was entirely undisturbed, with any ideas of my past misfortunes, or warnings of those succeeding ones I was ordained to suffer. I awoke not 'till very late, on hearing a knocking at my door, accompany'd with a Female voice, which cried out to me. Are you awake Fair stranger? Tho' I knew not what she said, I supposed it time to rise, and that she was come to call me up:—I therefore got out of bed, and, having thrown my gown about me, opened the door, which she immediately shut again, and presented me with a very rich *Indian* habit, which she helped me to put on, making signs to me, that my own was dirty, and unfit for me to wear. I was no sooner dressed, than another came in and brought chocolate and a sort of a cake; and all this was served me with a respect, which would have been flattering enough to my youthful vanity, had it not been check'd by my apprehensions of the motive which excited it.

After I had breakfasted, they shewed me into the great hall, where there master, (I need not say your Father) waited my coming. He rose to receive

ceive me with the utmost civility,—smiled, and taking up one of my long sleeves, seemed to testify how well he thought my dress became me. He then led me into the gardens, the beauty of which and the vast variety, and to me new flowers, very much charmed me. He plucked some of the most curious, and placed them in my hair, and on my breast, but with the greatest modesty and respect I could desire; and, indeed, offered nothing all that day, nor several others, which gave me the least occasion to be alarmed.—Yet did his eyes, I thought, whenever he looked earnestly upon me, (as he sometimes could not refrain himself from doing) discover a lambent inclination to become more free: I could also perceive his hand tremble, when on any occasion he took hold of mine, and, though people of his colour never blush, I frequently saw his complexion change suddenly into a paler hue, and seemed to denote he did himself some violence in behaving to me with this moderation.

When he had pointed out to me every thing that was worthy observation, either in the gardens, the fine banqueting room at the upper end, the little grotto's, adorned with shells, and the rivulets which run winding in a kind of labyrinth, and meet in the middle, where they form a kind of canal, we returned into the hall, where, the table being spread, we sat down to dinner. His treatment of me during the repast, was conformable to the rest.—All good manners mixed with an air of

kindness. The cloth was scarce taken away, when a servant came hastily into the room, and said something to his master, on which he seemed extremely pleased: The occasion of it was this.

Being possessed of a passion for me, which, unhappy as it has made me, I must do him the justice to allow, was no less sincere than violent, and troubled that he could neither communicate his thoughts to me, nor be informed who I was, or by what strange accident I came to be exposed in the manner his servants had related, he had sent immediately to town, offering a large reward to any one who could speak the languages of *Europe*, to come and serve as an interpreter between us. The person who went on this commission was successful enough to find a man, who spoke *Dutch*, *English*, and *French*; so that he said, whichever of these three nations the person happened to be, for whom he was to interpret, he could do justice to their sentiments.

This man being presently brought into the room, the *Banyan* after some discourse with him, bad him try me in all languages he was master of, which he did by speaking to me first in *Dutch*, then in *English*; but, finding I understood neither, at last he asked me in *French*, what part of *Europe* I was born in? And on what occasion I had come to *India*? Never were any sounds more pleasing to my ear than what this Fellow uttered.—I was quite transported at having an opportunity of relating who I

was

was, because by that I hoped to obtain some means of returning into *Europe*. I hesitated not a moment to let him know I was of that country, in whose language he last spoke to me, and then proceeded to give the whole narrative of my misfortunes, which, as soon as I had done, he repeated in the *Malayan* tongue to the *Banyan*, who seemed astonished at my story, and bid his interpreter assure me of his readiness to serve me in every thing in his power. I then desired to know the name of the country I was in? and, being told it was in *Bombay*, said, I intended to petition the *English* Factory for means to carry me home: But this my intention was no sooner mentioned to the *Banyan*, than he ordered the man to acquaint me I was at a great distance from the colony; and that he, who often had business with them, and could boast of some interest, would undertake to solicit this matter for me.

This answer was not altogether so pleasing to me; I wished to be out of the power of a man whose inclinations I dreaded, and to address the *English* in person, who being *Christians*, tho' different in some points from our persuasion, I doubted not but they would take pity on my distress. I made therefore some excuses to evade giving him trouble, but they availed not: The *Banyan* answered, that, as it was his good Fortune to be the first that was serviceable to me in that country, he was resolved to have the honour of completing the good

good offices he had begun. On this it came into my head, to endeavour to make this man my Friend, and carry a letter or message from me to the governor of *Bombay*, who, I had heard the *English* mate say, was a person of worth and honour; but then I was deterred by the belief, that this Fellow was a creature of the *Banyan's*, who might betray the confidence I reposed in him, and I should be as far off as ever from my hopes, and perhaps be the worse treated: I therefore thought it best to trust heaven for the protection of my virtue, and this *Indian* for the management of my affairs; so mentioned nothing but what was proper to be repeated to him. He, indeed, pretended to be impatient, equal to my own, for the accomplishment of what I desired, and went to town the next day on purpose, as he said, to acquaint the *English* with my adventures, leaving the interpreter with me, that I might by him communicate my commands to his servants, who he had ordered to be very obsequious to me.

His absence ridding me for a time of the disquiets I was under, I diverted myself with asking the interpreter, who I found was a *Dutchman*, many questions, as, how long since he had been in *France*? What had occasioned his going there; How he came to, and in what station he was at *Bombay*? On which he told me, That, being a mariner on board a *Dutch* merchant, the vessel was taken, and that it was during the time he was a prisoner he learned

learned the language : That afterwards, engaging in the *English* service, he arrived at the knowledge of their tongue, and also of the *Malayan*, by coming frequently into *India*, and being much among the natives, with whom he now was settled; was married to an *Indian* Woman, and had several children.—I was amazed to think an *European* could have any thoughts of cohabiting with a person of so different a complexion, and a *Pagan*; but I soon found he was one of those who give themselves little concern in matters of religion, so was glad I had not trusted him, as at first I had some thoughts of doing. I then asked him the name, and rank of the person under whose protection I had fallen? On which he gave me the most high encomiums of him, and added, That whoever he married would be the happiest woman in the world.

This I gave but a very little ear to, and, to amuse myself, made him teach me several phrases in the *Malayan* language, which I really found so easy, that, in about ten days time, I could be able to ask for any thing I wanted; and this little study beguiled many melancholly hours I should otherwise have passed.

I now began to wish for the *Banyan's* return, thinking, by the answer he should bring, I might be able to form some judgement of what I was to expect; but we neither saw nor heard any thing of him for a whole month. At length he came and pretended, (for, alas! I afterwards found all he said

said was but to delude me) That he had tarried all that time, waiting for the Governor's recovery, who was ill of a Fever, and continued still in a condition which would not suffer him to see any company, He told me, he had related my history to several of the *English* merchants, but they seemed extremely cold and backward of doing any thing for me, which, he supposed was owing to the war between the two nations; and that, as to my Father's effects, whatever were on board that ship were entirely lost, she being sunk to the bottom with her whole cargo.

This intelligence drew a flood of tears from my eyes, with which he seemed extremely moved, and told me, in the most tender terms, as the interpreter informed me, and which I now partly understood myself, that I had not any cause for this immoderate grief: That a little time, he hoped, would bring the *English* into more consideration of my distress, and that while I remained in *Bombay*, tho' it were for ever, his house, and every thing in it, should be at my devotion.—I thank'd him, as his hospitality, had it been unmixed with any other views, would have indeed deserved; but, whatever my thoughts were on that head, I concealed them with all the little skill I was mistress of, and seemed uneasy only at the trouble, his generosity and good nature occasioned him on my score. But this, he would hear nothing of, and endeavoured to abate my melancholy by all the ways he could

could invent.—He made some of his people dance before me, others sung, and some play'd on instruments. The interpreter having told him what a progress I had made in the language of the country, he seem'd in an extasy, and cry'd out, then I may hope every thing in *India* is not disagreeable to the lovely *Henrietta*. As I perfectly understood these words, I took upon me to answer, without the help of an interpreter, that as yet I had found nothing so, and hop'd to leave it with the same opinion I at present had. He made no direct reply, but told the *Dutchman*, that he was either an excellent tutor, or his pupil must have an uncommon genius, to be able not only to understand, but to pronounce, with so much grace and propriety, the accents of a language that, a month ago, she had never heard.

After this, whenever dinner or supper was serv'd in, he made me tell him, out of which dish I would be help, to drink to him, and, in fine, to call for every thing I would have in *Malayan*. The women too, who attended me in my chamber, were highly delighted they could make themselves understood by me, and, when they dress'd or undress'd me, entertain'd me with some discourse or other, and this, in a very small time, made me so perfect in the language, that I could hold any conversation in it.

Some days pass'd on, in which I had every thing done to divert my thoughts, and nothing to assure
F me

me the fears I had entertain'd had any real foundation, 'till the *Banyan*, happening to be alone with me in the garden, led me into one of those grotto's, which, you know, in the hottest season, are never without a certain coolness extremely refreshing. We sat down on one of the benches, just opposite to the entrance, which gave us a prospect of the sun playing on the tops of the trees, and gliding all around, without our feeling any thing of its parching influence. Is not this pleasant, *Henrietta*? said he. Might not any one find in *India* sufficient for content, without desiring to roam elsewhere? doubtless, answer'd I, those, who have their settlements here, have no reason to murmur at their lot; but those, whose dependance lies in other parts, can but half relish the delights of this.—The way to make you like it then, resum'd he, is to fix you here: But I fear, added he, not all the pleasure of the situation would atone for the complexion of the inhabitants.—Our tawny colour is irksome to your eyes.—You cannot bear to look on what is so different from yourself.—I have been always taught, answer'd I, that true beauty is seated in the mind, and, that we ought to be attracted only by virtue; and I have hitherto observ'd that lesson, always to esteem people according to their actions.—Have mine ever been offensive, cry'd he, hastily? —Your's, sir, said I, very much surpris'd! Can the charity, compassion, and hospitality, to which I am so much oblig'd, be ever

ever too much, or too gratefully acknowledg'd?—No, *Henrietta*, no, answer'd he with a sigh, I have conferr'd no obligations on you—I could not act otherwise than I did; from the instant I beheld your charms, I became no longer the master of myself, or any thing I before was in possession of.—You seiz'd on all at once, and left me nothing, but the name of slave—Goddeſs of my ſoul! purſu'd he, taking hold of my hand, and putting it to his mouth, I love you.—I adore you!

Never was confuſion greater than mine at that inſtant; I bluſh'd, trembled, but had not power to ſpeak. He trembled too, tho' from a different cauſe. and, finding I was ſilent, had the temerity to ſnatch ſome kiſſes from my lips and breaſt—I ſtruggled, but, finding my reſiſtance ineffectual, why, ſir, cry'd I, will you deſtroy all the merit of your favours, by uſing me in this unworthy manner?—I know what 'tis to ſuffer hardships, and, be aſſur'd, I will hazard every thing, rather than be ſubjected to inſults of this nature.—Theſe words had all the effect I ſpoke them for: He immediately drew back, only retain'd that hand he had taken at firſt, and, preſſing it tenderly between both his, why, charming *Henrietta*, will you put ſo cruel a conſtruction on the innocent demonſtrations I would give you of the ardency of my paſſion?—Heaven only knows the tortures I have ſuſtain'd, in forbearing to ſhock your modeſty with too ſudden a declaration, and ſure it ought not ſo much to alarm

you, when I protest, by all those powers we worship, that I never had any other than such designs upon you, as are agreeable to virtue, and to honour.—No, *Henrietta*, continued he; permit me to be your *Lover*, and, by the same powers, I swear never to be your *Ravisher*.

Alas! sir, answer'd I, what is it you require of me? or, what can I infer from the distinction you have made? All I entreat, said he, is, that you will listen to my suit, and permit me to endeavour, by arguments, to win you to a more favourable opinion of my passion and person.—If, now and then, I feast my famish'd wishes with a touch of this dear hand, or even steal a kiss from those enchanting lips, impute it not as the forerunner of greater liberties, which I again bind myself by oath never to take, without your free consent.

Tho' I was somewhat more assur'd than I had been, by these asseverations, yet I could not think of licensing a flame, I was determin'd never to return, without an extream reluctance; and I remain'd irresolute in what terms I should reply. 'Tis certain I wish'd myself out of his power, tho' where I might be reduced to the want of all those things I had now an affluence of, rather than be condemn'd to importunities so distant to my inclinations; yet how to avoid them I could see no way, without exposing my virtue to the same dangers I had lately escap'd.

You hesitate even to allow me this, said he, but,
my

my dearest *Henrietta*, when you reflect on the straggle ways by which you were brought to me, how, among all numerous partakers of your voyage, you were alone preserv'd, what dangers of every kind you were expos'd to; what miseries you endur'd, 'till, almost miraculously, conducted to my roof, you must believe with some supernatural power interpos'd, snatch'd you from ruin, and made it your fate you should be mine.—Yes, pursu'd he, thou softest, lovilest creature, the gods, whom I adore, sent thee to me, as the choicest blessing, to reward my piety and zealous observance of their laws.

Ah, sir, cry'd I, mistake not the will of heaven, who sent me to you, only as an object to exercise your compassion and your bounty; to give you the highest, noblest pleasure, that of doing good: Those joys which love affords, seems weak, in my opinion, to come in competition with the other; but, if there are any to be found in the gratification of that passion, you may partake them with some men, whose religion and customs are more agreeable to your own.

No, *Henrietta*, no, answer'd he; the united charms of your whole sex, in any other than yourself, would give me short-liv'd blifs.—'Tis you, and you alone, can make me truly happy; and, as for the difference of religion, I doubt not, but when you are well acquainted with our way of worship, you will allow our gods more benevolent than you have found your own.

This

This blasphemy struck me with horror which was very visible in my countenance, and I instantly cry'd out, O! sir, rather kill me, than compel me to bear ought irreverent of the maker of heaven and earth.

I could see a smile, which had something in it of contempt, upon his countenance, at the exclamation I made; but he was too artful to suffer it to continue, or add any thing which might encrease my disquiet on this score: On the contrary, he told me, that he would never urge me to a change of faith; that I might enjoy my own opinion undisturb'd, pretended, that, provided people acted according to the rules of virtue and reason, he did not think it any matter of moment to what gods they pray'd. I say, but *pretended*, for in reality there never was a greater bigot to the idol-worship, nor a more prophane contemner of the divine mysteries of *Christianity*.—Grant heaven, my dearest *Zoa*, that you may one day be happily convinced, that *they*, and *only they* are truly *divine*!

It was near sun-set before I was suffer'd to leave the grotto, nor then, 'till I had promis'd to listen calmly to his amorous addresses. All supper I was persecuted in the same manner, and when I counterfeited a drouziness, and desir'd to retire, cruel *Henrietta*! cry'd he, I see the little effect all my tenderness has on you.—You hate me! my presence is insupportable to you; and much I fear it never will be in my power to render it less so: Yet, to
prove

prove the true respect I bear you, will not detain you here.—Perhaps, when left alone to meditate, you will think I deserve not to be treated with so much abhorrence. He spoke this with an air of so much real grief, that I could not keep myself from being affected with it.—Ah, sir, answer'd I, with some commotion, I am far from feeling any abhorrence of you, on the contrary, the benefits I have receiv'd from you, make me regard you as my only friend, my patron, my protector, and even to love you with the affection of a sister.—What more can you expect from a distress'd and helpless virgin, whose thoughts are all engross'd with her misfortunes, and the loss of her dear parents, yet recent in her mind?

Henrietta! Henrietta! cry'd he, with a voice which express'd as much satisfaction, as that he had last spoke in was the reverse. All thou hast lost, thou shalt find amply restor'd in me.—I will ever be to thee more than all the world.—But, added he, if it be true you love me, as a sister should, confirm it, by permitting me such an embrace as a brother ought not to be refus'd.

I now repented what I had said, and shudder'd with apprehensions of the consequence, while he held me folded in his arms for several minutes, as he afterwards confess'd, debating within himself, whether he should make use of that opportunity, which to him seem'd so favourable, to compleat his wishes: But the real tenderness he had for me got the

the better of his wild desires, and, thinking he had gain'd enough over me for that time, he let me go, though with such a distraction in his countenance, as made me sensible of the risque I had run.

All this night I pass'd in anxieties not to be express'd,—I was as sensible as I ought to be, of being in the power of a man who had declar'd so violent an affection for me, and could yet see no way to get out of it.—All my resource was to my prayers, in which I continued 'till the women came into my chamber. I was no sooner dress'd, than they told me, that the *Dutchman*, being about to depart, desir'd to take leave of me; on which I order'd he should be admitted. After expressing a great many good wishes for me, he artfully introduc'd the little likelihood there was, that the *English* would do any thing for me; and told me, that he perceiv'd the *Banyan* lov'd me, and he believ'd would make me his wife.—His wife! interrupted I, how is it possible a *Christian* should become the wife of a *Pagan*, the very difference of their ceremonies in marriage forbidding such an union?

All marriages are alike in the eye of heaven, answer'd he, the forms of them differ even in *Christian* countries; therefore I think you are unjust to yourself, if you refuse so great a fortune; as may be offer'd you in him, on so slight an objection.—Were it such, resum'd I, which yet I cannot allow, be assur'd I would suffer death, rather than take an *Indian* and an *Infidel* to my arms.
He

He would have added something to dissuade me from this resolution, but I told him, I would hear nothing on that head: On which he cry'd, that he wish'd I never might repent it; for, said he, you must consider, you are not mistress of yourself while under his roof—I know it but too well, answer'd I, and burst into tears. On which, he seeming very much mov'd, I once more thought I ought not to neglect this only opportunity of trying my fate; and, having discover'd in him a mercenary nature, imagin'd that, if I could make it his interest to be faithful to me, he would be so. I then laid open all my soul to him, conceal'd not the declaration made me by the *Banyan*; the aversion I had to his proposals of that kind, and the terrors I was hourly in on his account: And when ventur'd to let him know, that if any thing could be invented for my escape, I would quit his house, and venture every thing that might befall me. If therefore, continued I, you will be so good as to provide some disguise for me, I will go away by night, and travel to the *English* factory; who, I am certain, cannot be so inhumane as to refuse me a passage in one of their ships to some *Christian* country, whence I may easily go to *France*. To recompence what trouble you may take on this occasion, be assur'd, that, as soon as I arrive at the *Factory*, I will bestow upon you this ring; it is a diamond of value, and all my ill-fortune has left me. In speaking this I shew'd the jewel, the glitter

the better of his wild desires, and, thinking he had gain'd enough over me for that time, he let me go, though with such a distraction in his countenance, as made me sensible of the risque I had run.

All this night I pass'd in anxieties not to be express'd,—I was as sensible as I ought to be, of being in the power of a man who had declar'd so violent an affection for me, and could yet see no way to get out of it.—All my resource was to my prayers, in which I continued 'till the women came into my chamber. I was no sooner dress'd, than they told me, that the *Dutchman*, being about to depart, desir'd to take leave of me; on which I order'd he should be admitted. After expressing a great many good wishes for me, he artfully introduc'd the little likelihood there was, that the *English* would do any thing for me; and told me, that he perceiv'd the *Banyan* lov'd me, and he beleiv'd would make me his wife.—His wife! interrupted I, how is it possible a *Christian* should become the wife of a *Pagon*, the very difference of their ceremonies in marriage forbidding such an union?

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of which seem'd to have all the effect I wish'd it shou'd upon him, and, after a very little hesitation, he assur'd me, that within three days I should hear from him to my satisfaction; but advis'd me in the mean time, to treat the *Banyan* in a Fashion that should give him room to hope I was less averse to his desires, lest a contrary behaviour shou'd provoke him to have recourse to Force. I shook with horror at the bare mention of such a thing; and once more conjur'd him, with tears in my eyes, not to be unmindful of his promise; which having assur'd me the proformance of, by repeated oaths, he took his leave: And I sat about preparing myself to follow his instructions, the best my natural aversion to all deceit would permit me.

In the first place, thinking that, if I staid too long in my chamber, the *Banyan* might suppose it was only to avoid him, I went down into the hall, where I expected to find him, as was his custom, waiting to receive me, but now I was there, as near as I can guess, two hours before he came: At last he enter'd, and had a letter in his hand.—My dear *Henrietta*, said he, how sorry am I to be the bearer of news which I fear will give you pain, but you must be told it. I have just now receiv'd a letter from one of the *English* merchants, who assures me, in the name of the whole *Factory*, that, as there is at present so violent an animosity between the two nations, nothing can be done for one of your's, especially for a person of the Family of

of one who was the intended governor of *Iranadad*, and who, had he liv'd, and doubtless a commission, to give what annoyance he could to their trade; so that now, continued he, you have indeed no dependance but on me. My heart sunk in me while he spoke, but soon recover'd itself, on the belief that this was all an artifice, as indeed it was, to reduce me to the necessity of complying with his will. Following the *Dutchman's* advice, I therefore only said; then I find there are barbarians among *Christians*—Aye, return'd he with some vehemence, such as you will never find among the *Indians*: And then went on with a long detail of many cruelties, impositions, fraudulent dealings he pretended had been practis'd by the *European* nations. Tho' I was far from giving credit to what he said on this head, any more than what he had told me concerning myself; yet I contradicted nothing; and the whole day so well supported an affectation of good humour, as, I imagin'd, pass'd upon him for reality.—Alas! while I thought I was deceiving him, how cruelly was I deceiv'd myself. I now seem'd to give a less reluctant ear to the professions he made of his love; suffer'd him to hold my hand for hours together, without offering to snatch it from him, and even to kiss me without struggling. He seem'd transported at my condescension, and, pressing me to his bosom, cry'd, O my *Henrietta*! shall I never prevail on you to believe 'twill be your happiness,

as well as mine, to allow me greater Favours? This action making me fear I had over acted my part, I sprung from his embrace:—Remember, sir; said I, the vow you have made, nor wound my modesty with Freedoms, I should be unworthy your affection to permit. I yet am young, and a virgin, nor can at once resign my heart: Grant me at least a little time — You shall have all you ask, reply'd he, but let that time be limited, Say but you will be mine, and when. and I'll attend the blissful hour with cold *European* patience,—I cannot promise any thing, said I; but, if you love me truly, will try how far my gratitude, and the respect I have at present for you, will work by degrees upon my soul.—Well, I must content, rejoind he, with what you are pleas'd to grant. After this I could perceive he was a little thoughtful, tho' he endeavour'd to conceal it, but behav'd to me with some tenderness as ever. This continued for two days, and part of the third from the *Dutchman's* departure, during all which time the pain I was in, for fear he should not keep his word, and the Force I did myself in suffering the *Banyan's* importunities, render'd my life very irksome. At last I flatter'd myself with a relief, at least from the disagreeable task of dissimulation. The *Dutchman* came under pretence of searching for some papers, which, if he had not left behind, he said, were lost, and it were of great consequence to him, but, in reality, to slip a letter into my hand, which

which having done, unperceiv'd by any one, he went again, and I took hold of the first moment I was left alone, to see what he had given me contain'd. These were the words.

If you persist in your resolution of leaving the Banyan's House, come into the Garden about midnight, and by the side of the banquetting room, you will find the habit of a slave. I thought that the properest disguise to conceal you, but I would still advise you to give over the thought of it, for I am afraid you will meet a cold reception from the English: However, I fulfil my promise, and will wait for you on the back of the garden in order to conduct you where you so much wish to be.

After reading this billet I found myself more easy than one would believe it possible, for one in my circumstances to be; but in the persecution I receiv'd by the Banyan's solicitations, and the terrors I was perpetually in of being dishonour'd by him in the end, were so strongly imprinted in my mind, that I trembled at no difficulty, where a prospect of getting free appear'd.

The Banyan being that evening extreamly pressing for me to fix the moment of his happiness; tomorrow, answer'd I, you shall know my resolution.—Your resolution! cry'd he, that may be to doom me to despair; but tell me, may I hope it will be in my Favour?—Yes, sir, said I, if you con-
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tinue to desire it.—That, you may be convinced, is past a doubt, rejoin'd he ; to-morrow, you say : Swear then, by your god, you will be mine to-morrow.—There is no answering for events, said I ; (very cunningly as I thought) but if I live, and see you to-morrow in the same sentiments you now profess, I will refuse you nothing.—But yet you have not sworn, resum'd he ; confirm the charming promise with a vow, that I may be ascertain'd of my bliss, and pass this night in extacies of imagination, which can be exceeded by nothing but the next—Well then to satisfy you, said I, by the all-seeing rulers of this wide creation, I swear to keep inviolable the promise I have made.

This I thought, was very safe for me to do, being sure of not seeing him on the morrow ; or at least, if any unlucky, and unforeseen accident should bring him where I was, he would have other sentiments of me, when he found I had deceiv'd him, than those he entertain'd of me at present.—Unhappy women ! little did I think what dangerous consequence it is to sport with matters of a sacred nature.—This is a guilt which still hangs heavy on my soul, and doubtless what has render'd me unworthy heaven's protection !

The *Banyan* appear'd transported, and kiss'd my hand several times, but yet I thought with less Favour than he was custom'd to ; he also talk'd but little, and when I made a motion to retire to my chamber, he oppos'd it not, only said, embracing

bracing me at the same time, take heed, my lovely *Henrietta*, you perform your vow. I only smil'd, and took my leave, as I imagin'd, for the last time, imputing the alteration, I could not but observe in his behaviour, to an excess of joy, instead of the reverse, which was in reality the case, and, with all the artifice he was master of, he was unable to dissemble.

I thought no more of it however, but, being got to my chamber, suffer'd the women to prepare me for bed as usual; but as soon as they were gone I put on my cloths again, waiting impatiently for the appointed time, which I was oblig'd to stay somewhat beyond, imagining I heard some noise in the house, as if all the Family were not in bed. At last, finding all hush'd and all silent, I ventr'd down, and, having open'd the door softly, past into the garden, trembling at every step, lest some accident should ratard my intended flight, and then, said I to myself, what will become of me after the vow I have made?—I met with nothing, however, to give me any alarm, and, on my coming to the banquetting room, found the habit as the *Dutchman's* letter had inform'd me.—I presently exchange'd my taffety-robe for the habit of a slave, and got over the little Fence that parts that side of the garden from the meadow, where I found my expected guide, and put myself under his conduct. He told me I must arm myself with patience, for we had many a weary mile to travel,
before

before we should come to any secure place of rest; but I was so overjoy'd at my deliverance, that I thought I could walk for ever. We rather ran indeed, in order, as he said, to gain a considerable distance before I shou'd be miss'd, and consequently pursued. We took our way through a wood, the gloomy horror of which reminding me of what I had suffer'd in *Cayama*, gave me some little shock, but, apprehending nothing of that danger from the present companion of my pilgrimage, as he was a man far advanced in years, I soon recover'd myself from it.

We had not pursued our journey above half a league, when all on a sudden we heard a great noise, and presently found ourselves encompass'd by several men, who, all at once, cry'd out, a woman! a woman! We will share her among us. They fell upon the *Dutchman*, as, I thought, kill'd him: Then seiz'd on me, and made use of some expressions, which, join'd to the surprize and Fright I was in before, took away my senses, and I fell down in a swoon. Whether any attempts were made to bring me to myself, or not, or by what means I was convey'd from that place, I was not capable of knowing; but the first objects that presented themselves to my returning senses, were the two women who had been us'd to attend me, and who now seem'd busy in applying things for my recovery. My brain was yet weak: I saw not presently where I was, and, tho' I perfectly knew them,

them, the idiea of these dreadful men, in whose power I had been but a moment before, to my thinking, was so strong in my head, that I talk'd of nothing but rapes, and murders, which, had they not been acquainted with the meaning of, would have made them imagine me in a Frenzy. But this delirium lasted but a short space ; reason return'd, and shew'd me what a wretch I was. I found that I was again in the power of the *Banyan*, under his roof, and on the same bed as I had ever lain upon, since my being first presented to him ; but the meaning of all this I could not yet fatham, or by what means he could so suddenly have been apprised of my Flight. I ask'd the women several questions concerning this adventure, but all the satisfaction I could get from them was, that their master would answer me. By this I guess'd it would not be long before I saw the *Banyan*, and the shame of having deceiv'd him, join'd to the apprehensions I before had of him, was ready to throw me into a second Fainting. O ! cry'd I, for what unknown transgression am I thus severely persecuted ? Why does every attempt I make, for the preservation of my threaten'd virtue, involve it still in greater dangers ? The tears I shed, the exclamations I utter'd, and the bitter anguish of mind I now endeavour'd not to conceal, might have mov'd the most flinty heart to compassion ; but heaven seem'd to abandon'd me, and he, who

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had now the disposal of my Fate, had fix'd my doom.

It was day before he enter'd, and, tho' he had all the marks of the most heavy displeasure on his brow, I could perceive a sullen satisfaction through the gloom. I was still on the bed, and as soon as he appear'd I pluck'd the coverlet over my Face.—Well may you hide yourself, ungrateful and perfidious maid, said he; not only false to me, but to your god, who testifies his abhorrence of your crimes, and, had he no greater pity, would abandon you to all you seem most to dread.—But come, continued he, throwing off the coverlet, let me see what Form that deceitful Face now wears, and whether it yet has charms to disarm my indignation.—I wish not that it should, cry'd I, with as much courage as I could muster up, and ask no Favour, but immediate death. Since my hard Fate has again thrown me into your power, kill me, and ease me of the agonies I suffer, and yourself of the disquiets you feel on my account.—No, resum'd he, I have another, and more pleasing way of satiating my revenge; when that is compleated, you shall be free to dispose of yourself as you think fit.—Prepare, continued he, turning to the women who were still in the room, this perverse creature, in the best manner you can, to give me an hour's diversion, then bring her to my chamber. He went out with these words, and the mortal agonies I then was in would not permit

permit me to call him back, or impede the dreadful purport of them.

These creatures then, who had no sense of womanhood, or notion, but of obeying their imperious master, began to strip off the habit I had on, and, by Force, dress me in a rich *Indian* gown; I all the time weeping, tearing my hair, and invoking heaven to strike me dead that moment. In the horrors I then was, could I have come at any instrument of death, I doubtless had forgot the principles of *Christianity*, and put an end to my unhappy days: But the despair I testify'd making them apprehensive of the consequences, care was taken to prevent any such effect, and I was conducted, or rather dragg'd, to the place where I expected to have, what was dearer far to me than life, sacrificed to brutal lust and cruelty. Whether the sight of my distress mov'd him with some little pity, I knew not, but his countenance seem'd to have lost great part of its late Fierceness, and making a sign to those that brought me, to leave us alone together.—Well *Henrietta*, said he, is it thus that you endeavour to abate my just resentment? Is it by tears and sullen silence you think to win me to a forgetfulness of what is past?—I would now have spoke, but something rose in my throat, and stopp'd the passage of my words, and I could, for a considerable time, answer only with sobs, groans, and all the symptoms of an unutterable grief.—obstinate, foolish girl, cry'd he, I might

rather have expected you would have assayed to awaken me in that tenderness, which so long pleaded in your Favour. Where are those arts, the counterfeited softness and regard you could yesterday so well put on, in order to deceive me? This reproach shew'd me the power of guilt over the conscious heart; as this was the only real crime he had to accuse me of, it entirely destroy'd all that little resolution I had summon'd to my aid, and shame entervated the disdain and rage I was possess'd of at the beginning of his discourse.—If my words contradicted my actions, answer'd I, casting down my eyes, it was cruel necessity enforced me to it. Heaven knows I wish not to dissemble with you, and I now again, with the most perfect sincerity, avow my heart was never insensible of your Favours, though incapable of being touch'd with your love.—O! thou fly evader, resum'd he, could'st thou be grateful for the effects, yet ungrateful to the cause from whence they sprung? What motive, but my love, induc'd me to give thee my protection? And what return, but love had'st thou to make me?—I know not what it is to love, said I; but have been told it is not the effect of choice, but chance; a secret sympathy, which attaches us, in spite of ourselves, to the belov'd object.—True, answer'd he, and you have found a proof of it in me: I have lov'd you, *Henrietta*, lov'd you against my will, but what I did by compulsion, you should have endeavour'd

to have done my gratitude and reason. That you have still too great an ascendant over me, even my present behaviour may make you see; but I will break the enchantment which so much debases me, and think of you no otherwise than as a woman, and as such compel you to assist my pleasures.

In speaking this he took hold of me with a violence, which left me no ground to hope I could escape.—I threw myself at his Feet, conjur'd him to have pity on my youth and innocence; entreated his Forgiveness for the deception I had put on him; or, if he would not grant it, to punish me by another way than that he threaten'd. But he seem'd deaf to all I said; at last, if not for mine, ery'd I, for your own sake refrain this horrid violation: Remember you have sworn by all your gods, never to have recourse to Force; O think on the guilt of perjury.

I was going on, but he interrupted me at that word, O thou hypocrite, said he, with what Front can'st thou name perjury, when thou thyself art doubly guilty of it: Did'st thou not vow, by thy own god, that if a live, and in my power this day, thou would'st refuse me nothing? Why then this resistances unless to make me guilty too?—Hold, sir, reply'd I, the vow you upbraid me with I own; own too I made it to deceive you, and beg you to forgive the only offence I ever willingly committed against you: But, sir, be also pleas'd to remember it was conditional, and could

not

not bind, without you retain'd the same sentiments for me as at the time I made it : Which now, after this detection of my Fraud, I am sure you do not, cannot.

Then you allow it binding if I did, rejoin'd he ? —Most certainly answer'd I, nor durst I have departed from it, however averse by inclination to fulfil it.—Then hear me, said he, by your own words you are condemn'd : My sentiments are the same of you at this moment, as when you made that vow. To prove it, know I was acquainted with every method you took in order to impose upon me : The letter given by the *Dutchman* was wrote by my hand : The disguise laid for you by myself ; the persons who surpriz'd you in the Forest no other than my own servants, in the rear of whom I was in person ; nor quitted sight of you 'till laid on the bed, and means were used for your recovery. Thus, continued he, knowing your Fraud as well before your Flight as after, I could not have other sentiments of you then, than those I now retain.

I now became sadly convinced I was caught in my own snare, and had not one argument to offer in opposition to his reasons ; all I could do, to vent the anguish of my mind, was, to exclaim against the treacherous *Dutchman*, who had seem'd to Favour my design, seduc'd me by his pernicious advice, and betray'd me in so cruel a manner. The *Banyan* suffer'd me to evaporate my rage a-
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while, and then taking me in his arms, come *Henrietta*, said he, must we both be perjur'd? You, in refusing what you have sworn to yeld; and I, in using a violence, it is neither in my nature or my principles to be guilty of? Or will you unreluctant resign yourself to me, and save our souls a crime mine shudders at, tho' determin'd to commit?

What could I now say! How avoid what Fate seem'd to have ordain'd for me? Bound by oath, I durst not refuse what I would rather have died a thousand deaths than have granted: Yet willing the cruel sacrifice would be perform'd with the greatest shew of decency I could; I have nothing, sir, to urge, answer'd I, against the justice of your claim: I acknowledge myself yours by compact, and dare not oppose your seizing the Forfeit. But, sir, you then profess'd to love me honourably, express'd a wish to pass your whole life with me: If what you said was sincere, the gratification of your desires on my unhappy person ought to be introduc'd with a certain ceremony.—I understand you, cry'd he, and, to prove how little I deserve the treatment you have given me, I will still make you my wife. O *Henrietta!* *Henrietta!* pursued he, pressing my trembling, but now yielding lips, with all thy Faults, thou still art dear to my fond heart,

Name what is past no more, said I, if you would establish in my breast, that tranquility,
which

which alone can make our future happiness ; and, in return, I now swear with the utmost sincerity, that, however averse my soul has been to your desires, I will hence-forward endeavour to regard you with an equal degree of tenderness ; never be repugnant to your will, disobedient to your commands, nor refractory to your embraces, but behave in all things as a wife would do, who became so by her own choice and inclination.

It was not possible for any words to express the extacy he was in at this protestation ; nor could he himself testify it, but by incoherent phrases and broken sentences : Is it possible ? cry'd he. May I believe thee ? Then kiss'd, embrac'd, and held me to his breast with a tenderness, which, as it had nothing in it offensive to modesty, did really abate great part of the distaste his colour had been us'd to give me.

Fain would he have had the marriage solemnized that day, but I prevail'd with him to delay it to the next, alledging, that may last night's Fatigue, join'd to hurry of spirits the strange alterarions in my Fortune had occasion'd, requir'd I should pass this alone. You need not apprehend, said I, any attempt of deceiving you a second time, I too much repent the first ; and those hours I am absent from you shall be employ'd, in studying ways to atone for that transgression.

This obliging behaviour won him to grant my request, and all the remainder of that day was past in

demonstrations of the extreamest love on his part, and gratitude on mine. And, tho' 'tis certain I could not bring myself all at once to be perfectly contented with my Fate, yet I was much more resign'd to it, than some days before I could have imagin'd: The horrors of it by degrees diminish'd, and the tenderness, the consideration he still had of me, in spite of all I had done to disoblige him, made me think, that, if I could not love, I ought not to hate him. How ridiculous is it, said I to myself, to confine our liking to what is merely owing to the difference of climates? Had I been born in *India*, I should have been of the same colour with the *Banyan*: And what, except a skin, is wanting, to render his person as agreeable as any *European* I have ever seen? While I was thus ruminating, I look'd earnestly upon him, and, my sentiments being at that moment very much in his Favour, they doubtless gave an unusual softness to my eyes. He instantly perceiv'd it, and, tho' we were then at supper, started from his seat, and, throwing his head upon my breast, cry'd, O my *Henrietta*! my I believe those looks of yours have any correspondence with your heart? Believe every thing, said I, blushing, that may add to your contentment on my score. I promis'd to endeavour to love you, a Few hours hence it will be my duty to do so; and I hope, when once that sacred ceremony is past, I shall fulfil it. I had no sooner spoke these words, than a sudden thought came in-

to my head, which gave me some disquiet ; and the moment I had disengag'd myself from his arms, I communicated it to him. Sir, said I, in what manner is our marriage to be perform'd ? For if it is not according to the rights of the *Christian* church, I never shall be able to believe myself legally your wife.—You would be esteem'd so in this country, answer'd he, if not united to me in the Forms appointed by the *Indian* worship ; nor could I at my death, in case it happens before yours, leave you as I would wish to do. Besides, added he, if you consider that I am a *Banyan*, and a man bound to uphold the religion I profess, you will allow I could not marry otherwise,

I knew very well that what he said was reasonable ; yet the thoughts of pledging my vows in the pagod of an idol was so terrible a shock to me, that I could not get over the melancholy it occasion'd : In vain he endeavour'd to render me more chearful, I carried the most gloomy mediation to my chamber, and pass'd great part of the night in tears —Doubts of forfeiting my eternal salvation struck me with horror ; but then again I consider'd, that if heaven resolv'd to look on what I was about to do with an unforgiving eye, it would not have oppos'd all the measures I had taken to avoid the crime. This suggestion gave some ease to my despairing mind, and, that I might be really a wife, which I could not be brought to believe the *Indian* ceremony would make me, I resolv'd to repeat internally

ternally, while the other was performing, that of the *Christian*.

Early in the morning the two women who constantly attended me came in, with several others, and equipt me indeed in a very sumptuous manner for my nuptials, and then conducted me to the *Banyan*, who I found also very richly drest. I told him in his ear the expedient I had form'd to satisfy my scruples: At which he smil'd, and answer'd, that he was glad I had found any thing to make me more satisfyed with my lot. A numerous train of *Banyans* and others, whom he had invited to be witnesses of our marriage, immediately entered, and we went in procession to the place appointed for the ceremony.

But O my dear *Zoa*, if you carefully examine the papers annexed to this little history, in which I have set down the Forms prescribed by the *Christian* nations, for our marriages, for our initiating of infants into the church, for our visitations of the sick, or prepararions for eternity, and at our interments, I flatter myself you will find so wide a difference between those solemn and truly pious rites and the wild ceremonies of the *Pagan* worship, that you will learn to love and venerate the one, and despise and hate the other.

Here ended the calamities of my *Virgin* state; but, alas! only to begin again in that of a *Wife*: For tho' never woman, possess of an unworthy passion, ever laboured more than I did to cherish

a lawful one for him, who was now my husband; yet could I not bring myself to Feel any of those ardours, which, they say, ought to accompany the union between man and woman. As I thought it my duty to be fond, I return'd his endearments in the best manner I could, yet were they so infinitely short of those I received, that a less penetrating eye than this might easily perceive the difference: He complain'd of it at first in the most tender terms, omitted nothing that might excite in me a greater warmth of affection; yet all in vain, my soul remained insensible of those Furious emotions of delight, with which he met me after a very little absence, and was indeed amazed at them in him. 'Tis certain, had he loved me with less excess, we had been more happy: Possession was so far from making any abatement in the wildness of his passion, that every day I found the effects of its increase. He would hang whole hours together on my neck; gaze on my Face with such earnestness, tho' each look was to be his last, ask if I lov'd him? yet prevent the answer he desired by stifling me with kisses. As I had then a tolerable voice, and some judgment in music, he often bad me sing; but I no sooner had began, than some fond act of dotage oblig'd me to break off. In fine, tho' the testimonies he gave me of his passion would, to a person who lov'd to the same degree, have been transporting, they seem'd to me Folly and madness, and were so far from height'ning my esteem, that I was

obliged

obliged to make use of all my efforts to conceal the dissatisfaction they occasioned in me.

As he was never easy out of my sight, I took notice to him one day, that his staying so much in the country was a prejudice to his affairs; and asked, when he thought of going to town? On which he told me, he had ordered every thing for our departure in three or four days: For, said he, I intend you shall go with me; I could transact no business, my head would be incapable of any thing at such a distance from my *Henrietta*. It was necessary for me to feign myself highly contented with the journey, tho' in reality I should much rather have chose to indulge my meditations in that agreeable solitude.

On our arrival we received the visits of several *Indian Families*, who congratulated my husband on his choice, and made many flattering compliments on my beauty: But he always seemed averse to my going much abroad; and, as I was not at all desirous of any conversation with the *Indian* I readily enough complied with his inclinations in that point. I soon became pregnant, and the *Banyan* having discovered it, insisted on my accompanying him to the temple, to invoke the blessing of the idol worshipped there for a happy birth. It was, he told me, a custom that was not to be dispensed with, but especially in the wife of a *Banyan*; and that if I refused to go, he should incur the censure of all his country as a Favourer of *Christianity*.

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On this I did not make many scruples, but resolved to make my heart the temple of my devotions, and direct my prayers to that god, who knows the most secret recesses of it.

I was conducted to the *Pagod* in a close sedan and attended by the greatest part of our domesticks: The *Banyan*, with several of his Friends, met me at the entrance, and led me to the pillar on which the idol is placed; where, having finished my orisons, the ridiculous ceremonies that ensued filled me at once with wonder and detestation. All being over, the *Banyan* was leading me to my sedan, when four or five *English* gentlemen, excited I suppose by curiosity to see the *Indian* worship, were coming in. They seemed to know my husband, and saluted him in the most courtious manner, but had their eyes immediately fixed on me with tokens of admirations, which giving him some alarm, he scarce returned the civilities they paid him, and made what haste he could to thrust me into the sedan.

The habit of these persons assuring me they were *European*, I doubted not but they were of the *English* Factory: And the *Banyan*, on my asking him, told me that they were. On which I said, that, if he approved of it, I should be glad to be made acquainted with their ladies, as I supposed some of them, who were settled there, had wives and Families. He answered me, that on many accounts it would be improper; but chiefly, that to
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converse with *Christians* would make it supposed that I still retained the same principles, and, as it was absolutely necessary for his interest, to take off any such suspicion, he desired I would not think of it. Besides, added he, with a smile, these white people often will renew in you all that aversion you once had for my colour, and which I have too much reason to fear is not yet altogether dissipated. These words I thought discovered something of a jealous nature in him, and, as I knew it was the interest of my peace as well as my duty to give him no cause of offence that way, I assured him with the most passionate tenderness I was capable of assuming, that I had no wish equal to that of pleasing him, and would be glad it were in my power to prove my affection for him, by much greater sacrifices than the trifle I had mentioned. Ah *Henrietta*! cried he, how happy should I be to believe this obliging protestation? But alas, there is a test I have wished to put you to, which I much doubt your love for me would not be able to get over. It is, my dear, continued he, that you would be prevailed upon to throw off the prejudice of education, renounce the foolish principles your youth imbibed, and become in verity as true a *Pagan*, as the necessity of our affairs has obliged you to pretend.—Then, then, added he, embracing me, should we be one soul indeed: Then I shall believe you love me, which 'till then I never can.—O say not so, I conjure you, answered I; for tho'

tho' I never can exchange my Faith, or bow my body in reality to gods of wood or stone; yet I would die to prove you are, next Heaven, dearest to my soul. The earnestness with which I spoke these words, giving him an opinion they were sincere, as indeed they were, (for tho' I loved him not with passion, yet I loved none but him) made him the less displeased at the contempt I testified of his religion, and he forbore to urge me any farther at that time, nor indeed at any other, 'till after I had brought you into the world.

But, O my Zoa, what horrors did my poor heart feel, when regarding you with all a mother's tenderness, I reflected, that you must be trained up in infidelity, taught to dispise the Faith of your ancestors, and abjure the power that gave you being! Few opportunities I had for prayers, but those I had were all employed, that Heaven, who had by such strange accidents brought me among *Pagons*, might by ways unforeseen conduct you among *Christians*. Every time I considered you had not received baptism my soul shook within me; and one day, when I was alone, I got a basin of water, and repeating as much as I could remember of the sacred ceremony of consecration, I dipt your little head into it, gave you the sign of *Christianity*, and beseeched him, in whose name I did it, to accept you as an offering from my hands, since I was denied the assistance of a person whose office it properly was. I was in the midst of this act of devotion

votion when the *Banyan* came and surprized me. He had, it seems, been present at this ceremony, and therefore was not ignorant what I was about, as the rage which sparkled in his eyes too well convinced me. Vain, foolish woman! cried he; how durst thou practise these Follies on a child of mine? But dearly shalt thou pay for this abuse of my indulgence. Here, continued he, calling some women who were waiting in the next room, take this babe, and let her be conveyed, where the first words she is taught to speak, shall be to curse the *Christians*. I was at first so seized with terror, that I could not open my lips, but at these words I fell on my knees, and, in the best terms I could, begged him to moderate his indignation; but all I said was ineffectual, he tore you screaming, as if sensible of your misfortune, from my struggling arms, and made you be carryed from my sight; on which, forgetting all that before I had thought the duty of a wife, and regardless of what he might do to me, I burst into the most violent exclamations against his cruelty, against his gods, and deplored my own Fate, for subjecting me to the power of such a barbarian; nay, I think, I even called him monster; and, what stung him yet more, said he was in malice, as in colour, of a piece with hell. This last reflection on his person, which he had always suspected was disagreeable to me, so put him past all patience, that, without thinking what he did, he drew his dagger, and as I thought, was

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going to put an end to my wretched life, but he only gave me a blow on my head with the flat of it, which however struck me to the ground, and for a time took away both my speech and senses. How he behaved after he saw me fall, I know not, nor did ever give myself the trouble of enquiring, so intirely had this last action destroyed all that tenderness I had for so many months been labouring to establish: All my care was for my little Zoa, and, as soon as I came to myself, I asked where you were sent? My women then told me, that you were yet in the house, but how you were to be disposed of they knew not, and advised me to submit myself to the *Banyan*, who they doubted not would be prevailed upon to suffer you to continue with me, especially as I gave you suck, and it might be prejudicial to you, if removed to any other breast. As I knew his Fondness of you, I was of their opinion; but it was not presently I could think of ever speaking more with any shew of tenderness, to a man who had treated me as a slave. At length, however, my love and care of you got the better of my resentment, and I consented they should bear a message from me, in what terms they thought would have most effect upon him, to prevent his sending you out of the house. They went and soon after returned with you in their arms, but told me, that if I hoped to retain any part of their master's affection, or keep you always with me, I must humble myself to him

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in person. As my wretched lot had subjected me to his authority, it had indeed been the most prudent step I could have taken; but the pride of blood, now aiding my disdain at his unworthy usage, made the thoughts of ever seeing him more insupportable to me. 'Tis sure that nothing, but the danger of being separated from you, could ever have made me bend to a man in all things, but his power, so much my inferior, and whom I had not now the least remains of consideration.

Several days did I support this resolution, in every one of which the women remonstrated to me, that my obstinacy so incensed the *Banyan*, that it would infallibly occasion the loss of my child. This terrified me for a moment, but then my vanity suggested, that those charms, which once had so great an influence over him, would still get the better of his haughtiness, and the impossibility of living without me force him to be the first that should desire a reconciliation; and then I might make my own conditions. But these expectations deceived me; he came not, not sent, 'till with the cruel order of depriving me of you I now tore my hair and garments, and at last bid the messenger intreat of him to permit me to come into his chamber; and if he then insisted on my delivering the infant I would do it. I was told that it was not without a great deal of difficulty he was won to grant my request; I believe, by the manner in which he received me, I was informed no more

than the truth. All that softness, that regard, with which he was wont to look upon me, and on which I had so much depended, seemed vanished as if it had never been; and casting his eyes towards me, with the air of an imperious master, rather than a tender husband, woman, what is it you would have? said he; briefly relate the subject of your petition.—I come, sir, answered I, trembling between the constraint I put upon myself, and the Fears of not succeeding, to deliver up this infant to you, and withal to conjure you to command my death at the same time, for, after the loss of your affection and the presence of my dear child, I cannot wish to live.

Death may indeed be preferable, answered he fiercely, to living with me; but since that discovery of your sentiment, I have been kind enough to keep out of your sight; this *Barbarian!* this *monster!* who *in malice, as in colour, is of a piece with hell*; and who, 'tis plain, you always had an equal abhorrence of in your heart, tho' you dissimulated otherwise in your actions.

'Tis actions speak the heart, said I sobbing, and ought to be regarded, when a few rash words enforced by an extremity of passion are forgot: Mine were no more, and if you loved you would forgive.—Had they been such, interrupted he, you would long e'er this have repented of them, and implored that pardon, which you even now hardly vouchsafe to ask.—Will then, cried I, falling at his

his Feet, this humble posture move you to believe? On my knees I humbly beg all animosities between us may be no more remembered, and that you will not part me from my child.

He seemed a little touched with these words, and the tears that accompanied them, and either thro' his consideration of you, or some remains of tenderness for me, vouchsafed, tho' in the most haughty terms, a grant of my request, on this condition, that I would bind myself by a most solemn oath, never, as you grew up, to attempt inspiring you with any notions of the *Christian* Faith. I was obliged to yeild to this injunction, hard as it was, and you know, my *Zoa*, how religiously I have observed it; but with my life all obligations cease; and I hope what I bequeath, as the only and best legacy I could give you at my death, will have some influence over you.

It is now, at the time of my writing this, twelve years since the quarrel I have been relating happened, yet has there been a perfect reconciliation between us. Convinced by what I had said, that all the tenderness he had for me had made a real impression on his heart, his pride would not permit him to shew any marks of its continuance. I, on the other side, not able to forgive the contemptuous blow I had received, used no efforts to make him think I had a more favourable opinion of him. jealousy of his honour, or perhaps a pleasure he takes in denying me all that would give me
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any satisfaction, makes him keep me in a continual imprisonment.—A stranger in a place where I have lived so many years; I breathe not the fresh air beyond the precincts of our own grounds; know not the Face of any creature but our own domesticks; partake of no diversion; enjoy no conversation but my own melancholy thoughts; and sometimes, what is yet less agreeable, the company of a man, who from the utmost excess, and even troublesome degree of detage, now behaves with the most stubborn indifference; sits by me either in a sullen silence, or entertains me with malicious jests on the alteration of my person. All this I bear with a seeming patience, as the ills I suffer are without a remedy; but a secret grief preys on my vitals: Withered in my bloom, moped, spiritless, I pass my days in a wasting anguish, which life cannot long sustain.

The dreadful solitude I long have lived in has given me opportunity to write you this account of myself, and the papers you will find enclosed: All I have to ask of heaven is, that they may have due weight with you to make you become a *Christian* in your heart; as to an exterior shew of it, at least while the *Banyan* lives, I can neither expect nor desire. Remember that, tho' he has been my tyrant, yet he is your Father; and you must not only obey, but also oblige him in all things wherein your conscience is not concerned; but above all things, if it be possible, my dear *Zoa*, avoid marrying

rying a *Pagon*; for that would be binding yourself for ever to idolatry, and perhaps make you the mother of a race of misbelievers; a crime which would render you, no less cruel to them, than I should be to you, if I forbore giving you those instructions at my death, which I was bound by oath never to reveal in life.

Farewel, my dear, dear child! As before you read this I shall be released from this vale of misery, be assured I am continually making intercession to the throne of mercy, both for your mortal and immortal happiness.

I MUST add, as a Supplement to this History, said *Zoa*, when my poor mother found her hour of dissolution was at hand, she called me to her beside, and, after giving me her blessing, put into my hands a little casket, in which she always kept some rich jewels and other trinkets, presented her by my Father in his days of Fondness. My dear child, said she, this is all I have to give you, but you will find in it something worth preserving. I charge you, however, not to open it 'till after my decease, and be careful that none look into it but yourself, for, if they do, you will be deprived of the most valuable treasure in it, and all my endeavours for your happiness rendered Frustrate.

She died the moment after she had given me this command, and I was intoo much grief to think of the casket; at last, remembering the emphasis with

with which she laid an injunction on me concerning it, I took an opportunity when I was alone of opening it, and found this narrative of her misfortunes, and all the articles of the Christian Faith, with a transcript of the most material institutions of it.

I now discover'd the reason that my Father had frequently ask'd me, if ever my mother had talk'd to me concerning any of the Foolish customs, as he call'd them, of her country? And could not avoid pitying that poor lady, who must doubtless have been under a very great restraint in the Forbearance. I us'd frequently to read over what she had wrote, and found so wide a difference between the principles of her religion, and that I had been brought up in, that I desired nothing more than to be able to put them in practice.

